



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA)



## The Advocate, November 2021

Online at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/newsletter/>

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## From the President

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*by Joanne Quijano, President*

We've had a busy month in October as our AAUW year takes off. It was great to see so many members get active and march with the Rally for Reproductive Rights on the 6<sup>th</sup> in Danville; I was proud to be a part of the group. See the Branch Reports section for some photos from the event. While the rally showed strong support for abortion rights, there are many challenges coming up that will need all of us to make our voices heard.



I'm happy to announce that National AAUW now has Gloria Blackwell as the new CEO. You can read about her many accomplishments and her impressive experience with AAUW in this newsletter.

Our October program was a Zoom session with two excellent speakers, both women who work in water resources fields. Programs VP Bette Felton did a great job of putting together the program and developing an interesting approach to enable the speakers to share information. Look for her recap of the event in the Branch Reports section.

Unfortunately, our November program about Generation Citizen has been delayed due to scheduling problems. There just wasn't enough time to work out a new mutually agreeable date this month. Don't worry, we really want to bring this topic to you, so we'll reschedule this in the Spring.

New members will get a chance to meet each other and some of our branch officers at an event to be held on November 6<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate that it's been tough for you to get acquainted with our branch given so many of our activities since early last year have been held via Zoom. DAW Membership VP, Claudia Schwarz, is busy coordinating the event, and has already sent out invitations to the members involved. I'm looking forward to meeting some of you then!

Tech Trek Chair, Deborah Wechsler, has good news that Tech Trek will be in person next year! Look for more information about this great program under the Branch Reports. Related to this, you'll be getting our annual fundraising letter in November requesting your generous support. We've had so many challenges since we're limited in holding in person events that we are asking for your donations directly. I hope you can give as you are able – these donated funds are critical to our being able to support our Tech Trek and Local Scholarship students. In addition, your contributions to the AAUW National FUND helps them to continue their many worthy initiatives.

November is a time for giving thanks and reflecting on all of the wonderful advantages we have in this area. Remember to be grateful for those around you – family, friends, associates, community. Take care.

### November To Do List

#### **November 6<sup>th</sup> New Member Event**

Contact Claudia Schwarz

#### **Meet AAUW Calif Funds Awardees**

Hear from the awardees virtually

- Nov 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm

[Funds RSVP Here](#)

#### **November 15<sup>th</sup> Program**

**Civic Education: Generation Citizen**

Delayed until Spring

#### **November 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award**

Via Zoom

#### **November 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**

Via Zoom at 9:30am

#### **Volunteer with the Branch!**

Learn about open Board positions on [the Branch website](#)

## Upcoming Events

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### November/December Programs Update

*by Bette Felton, VP Programs*

Because of scheduling difficulties, we must delay the Civics Education program, planned for November 15th. Since you have requested this topic in our surveys, we'll still plan to learn in this area, but the program will now be in the Spring.

In December look for a combination social event and celebration of Women in Art. More news to come.

### Meet AAUW Fund Awardees

*by Lynne Batchelor, Secretary, AAUW Fund Committee Chair*

It is almost time to fire up Zoom, put on your favorite waist-up attire, grab a snack, pick up a pen and paper, and join us in welcoming this year's California fellows and grant recipients. Because we are lucky enough to have so many (37) recipients in California, of the three scheduled events, there is still time to attend one on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM. Although the event is free, please consider making a donation to the AAUW Fund to support this fantastic program. You are especially invited to contribute to the Greatest Need Fund which enables your donation to be prioritized to meet AAUW obligations. Register now to be informed and inspired by these wonderful women!

- Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm      Register here – [AAUW CA Funds Sessions](#)

## National and California AAUW Reports

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### AAUW National

#### *Gloria L. Blackwell Takes the Helm*



This week starts a new chapter in AAUW's history. After 17 years at AAUW, [Gloria L. Blackwell](#) took on a new role: CEO. "I am incredibly honored and grateful to the Board for valuing my commitment to global gender equity, my leadership at AAUW and the contributions of my high-performing teams," said Blackwell.

Among her [many accomplishments](#) is her longtime management of AAUW's fellowships and grants program, which awarded more than \$70 million to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas.

Blackwell was also the driving force behind AAUW's signature programs, including its salary negotiation trainings, which have reached nearly 190,000 people.

"As AAUW proudly celebrates 140 years of advancing equity for women and girls this year, we know that Gloria is the right leader at the right time," said Board Chair Julia Brown.

## ***Celebrating 140 years of AAUW***

AAUW couldn't have made it to 140 years without members and supporters like you. As a small token of thanks, we invite you to a celebratory virtual event on November 17. We will honor our history and announce the 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee—an outstanding fellowships and grants alumna! Stay tuned for details. **Save the date – November 17<sup>th</sup>!**

## **AAUW California**

### ***Updates from AAUW California Public Policy Committee***

*by Kathi Harper, Co-Chair – updated legislative outcomes as of October 29 by Chris Ritter*

### **Abortion Justice**

Although the constitutionally-guaranteed right to an abortion has been systematically under attack for decades, it is currently in danger of disappearing altogether. As AAUW National recently noted, "Every person should have the ability to make their own informed decisions regarding their reproductive life. It is beyond time for abortion to be secured legally, funded fully, and equitably available for all who need it, when they need it, without shame or stigma." With the recent refusal of the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in the onerous Texas case, it is clear that we can no longer count on the courts to protect this critical right. Congress must pass the Women's Health Protection Act. Watch for Action Alerts from National, use them to keep pressure on your representatives, and sign-up now for the 2-Minute Activist if you haven't already done so by clicking here <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>.

### **Legislative Updates**

Four of our priority bills have been enrolled (passed by the Legislature) and were sent to the Governor for signature. Here are the results:

- SB 62 - requires fair pay, instead of "by the piece" payment, for garment workers - **Signed**
- AB 367 - requires free menstrual products be provided in girls/women's bathrooms in schools - **Signed**
- AB 123 - increases paid family leave benefits to 65 – 75% of regular pay – **Vetoed** due to cost
- AB 1074 - requires hotel and janitorial workers who have lost their jobs due the pandemic to be prioritized for hiring as businesses reopen – **Vetoed** due to overlap with AB 93 passed last year that contains strong recall and retention protections for hotel workers who lost their job because of the pandemic and applies to existing and successor employers

### **Latina Equal Pay Day**

October 21<sup>st</sup> was Latina Equal Pay Day – the day Latina women, who are paid just 57 cents to every white male's dollar, finally catch up from the previous year. To help raise awareness, our coalition partner Stronger California hosted a Latina Equal Pay Day & Essential Women Workers Virtual Summit. The summit was recorded and you can learn more and hear from iconic civil rights leader Dolores Huerta as well as California's First Partner Jennifer Newsome. Click here [Summit Recording](#) to listen to the virtual Summit.

## DAW Branch Reports

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### Update on Tech Trek -- STEM 2022 Camp

*by Deborah Wechsler, Tech Trek Chair*

About 120 California Branch Tech Trek Coordinators attended a meeting on October 26 to discuss Tech Trek 2022. Good News - We plan to hold the 2022 camp in-person! We have many details to work out, but we should have more information by the first of December. There will be seven participating college campuses in California in 2022: Davis, Fresno, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Sonoma State, Stanford and Whittier. I have requested 12 camper slots for the camp at Sonoma State. With this many campers, we will be requested to provide some assistance to the camp in the form of dorm moms, class assistants and monitors, and even instructors. If think you might be interested, please contact me. There is no commitment yet but I can put you on my list for further information when we receive it.

I am sharing an image of the 2021 Virtual Camp Achievement and Completion certificates, which 15 of our girls received this year.

If fees stay the same as in 2020 (\$1000/girl) we are only about \$2000 short of funding for 12 girls in 2022. Thanks for your generous contributions!



### October Program Recap- Women Working with Water

*by Bette Felton, VP Programs*

The October 26 program was titled **Women Working with Water**. Over 30 women Zoomed in to learn and discuss global and local issues around drinking water. From consulting design engineer, Erin Mackey, and managing engineer Laura Johnson, we heard disturbing facts, and encouraging projects designed and implemented to keep our drinking water safe, and available. Both women shared their education and career trajectories, and how they are finding solutions in the water industry. There were good questions and discussion about our latest atmospheric river, and updates on collaborations throughout our region to improve and ensure water access. We continue to be impressed by two more women, **finding solutions** (this year's program focus), and making improvements for all of us. Thank you, Erin and Laura for an amazing learning experience!

If you missed the live event, you can watch the video on our website at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/water/>

## October 2<sup>nd</sup> Rally for Reproductive Rights

by Asha Bajaj, photos by Claudia Schwarz



It was such a wonderful sight to see so many organizations come together for the nationwide call to march to protest the recent Texas law prohibiting abortion beyond 6 weeks. The most egregious provision was a monetary incentive to report someone if you knew they had an abortion.

In Danville, our members came with their friends and their daughters; all ages and all stages of life were represented in the group. There was a lady in a motorized scooter and a young woman on her skateboard. We marched from the library around the corner to the Veterans Building and back. Cars honked and cheered us on. There were many signs held up and the energy was electric.

We are all awaiting the Supreme court taking up this issue on their new calendar. Stay tuned!

## Annual Funds Campaign in October

*by Judy Halden and Marilyn Lawver, Funds Co-VPs*

It's that time of the year again - AAUW Funds solicitation. You will notice that our Branch is doing a combined solicitation this year for Funds, Tech Trek, and Local Scholarships. Because of the ongoing pandemic it is much more difficult to do individual fund-raising events.

National AAUW as well as individual branches nationwide are facing difficulties raising funds for much-needed programs. We hope that you will take into consideration all the ways that you have contributed over the years and, once again, give generously.

## Request for Advertisers

*by Marsha Anderson-Landau, Advertising Sales Manager*

What is your favorite local business? Please help us identify great advertisers for our AAUW DAW Directory, the Advocate and special upcoming events.

An important source of funding for our local branch activities is advertising from local businesses in our annual Directory. I've been working to identify advertisers who are great fits for our membership in that they offer excellent services that are needed by our members.

Do you know a local business that you could recommend to your fellow AAUW members? Please let me (marsha888@comcast.net or 925-351-8188) know the name of the business, the name of anyone you know there, and tell us why you recommend it. I will follow up with them and let them know of your recommendation and ask them if they would like to expand their business with our group!

## Public Policy Corner

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*by Asha Bajaj, Public Policy Chair*

### Higher Education Package

The California state budget's unprecedented level of investment in higher education reflects a continued commitment to affordability, more accessible institutions, higher quality programs, equitable outcomes, and more efficient degree pathways—all of which are critical for driving upward mobility across the state.

The budget includes total funding of \$47.1 billion (\$25.7 billion General Fund and local property tax and \$21.4 billion other funds) for all higher education entities in 2021-22. The state's three public segments—the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges (CCC)—receive substantial ongoing base augmentations, and the Budget includes significant investments to make postsecondary education more affordable, including expanding the state's Cal Grant program to additional CCC students. Also included are investments to make college savings accounts widely available to low-income children; provide grants to advance training and education for workers impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic; promote

learning-aligned, long-term career development opportunities; and support regional K-16 education collaboratives focused on streamlining educational pathways leading to in-demand jobs.

### **Increasing Transfer Rates for Underserved Students**

- AB 928 by Assemblymember Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park) – Requires the CSU and UC to jointly establish a singular lower division general education pathway for transfer admission into both segments.
- AB 1111 by Assemblymember Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park) – Requires, by July 1, 2024, the CCCs adopt a common course numbering system (C-ID) at all community colleges and for each community college campus catalog.

### **Finding Solutions to the Student Housing Crisis**

- AB 1377 by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento) – Requires the CSU system, and requests the UC system, to conduct a student housing needs assessment for each campus, and create a student housing plan outlining how projected student housing needs will be met.
- SB 330 by Senator María Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles) – Requires the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) to develop a pilot program to provide affordable housing to students or employees of LACCD.

### **Making Financial Aid More Accessible**

- AB 340 by Assemblymember Chris Ward (D-San Diego) – Expands allowable withdrawals from 529 plans to include expenses associated with participation in a registered apprenticeship program and student loan repayment.
- AB 469 by Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes (D-San Bernardino) – Requires the California Student Aid Commission and the California Department of Education to facilitate the completion of the Free Application for Student Aid and the California Dream Act Application, through the sharing of specified data.
- SB 737 by Senator Monique Limón (D- Santa Barbara) – Modifies and expands criteria for which the California Student Aid Commission may apportion funds to support projects under the California Student Opportunity and Access program, and additionally expands the duties and responsibilities of funded projects.

### **Upcoming Important Supreme Court Decision**

**Abortion access** -The Rally for Reproductive Rights was very successful, but the Texas bill is still in effect banning abortions after 6 weeks of pregnancy. The justices on Dec. 1 will hear arguments over Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban, a case that poses a direct challenge to the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that first recognized a right to abortion.



## Membership Corner

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*by Claudia Schwarz, Membership VP*

### Welcome New Members!

**Walnut Creek:** Mary Jo Potter

To reach out to our new members and welcome them to our Branch, click [Here](#) for their email and phone number information on the Directory page in the members only section of our website.

### New Member Event

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, new members are invited to meet and greet other new members and some members of our Board and Interest Group Leaders.



Normally, new members are introduced to each other and to Board Members at the annual September Brunch. At the brunch, they also sign up for interest groups and find out about their neighborhood group; this contact is an important part of feeling welcomed and involved in our association.

Unfortunately, this is the second year our Branch has hosted a virtual brunch. Given the large number of members new to our Branch -- 25 new and returning members since June 2021! -- we felt the need to host an in-person event for vaccinated new members. We hope that this event will help build community and encourage them to become active members of our association.

Photos of the event will be posted in next month's Advocate!

### Join Our Branch

If you know someone who would like to join our group of wonderful women, please let me know. Send them this newsletter, or better yet, send them the following [NEW MEMBER LINK](#) and have them contact me at 925-786-6061 or [claudiaschwarz@comcast.net](mailto:claudiaschwarz@comcast.net)

## DAW Interest Group Happenings

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### Interest Group Updates

#### *Great Decisions*

*by Becky Bhatt*

The Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions Program for 2022 has been announced. Great Decisions meets for nine weeks beginning in February to discuss the week's reading. We watch a short video together and have a lively conversation. If you are interested in joining us the books can be ordered at [Great Decisions Materials](#).

The topics for Great Decisions 2022 this year are:

- Topic 1: "Changing Demographics" (Bonus Article) by Joseph Chamie
- Topic 2: "Outer Space" by Eric Berger
- Topic 3: "Climate Change" by Ron Bee
- Topic 4: "Russia and the U.S." by Allen Lynch
- Topic 5: "Myanmar and ASEAN" by Hunter Marston
- Topic 6: "Quad Alliance" by Kevin Rudd
- Topic 7: "Drug Policy in Latin America" by Mónica Serrano
- Topic 8: "Industrial Policy" by Jonathan Chanis
- Topic 9: "Biden's Agenda" by John Ikenberry



I am happy to continue leading the Tuesday 1:30pm group, but it would be great for someone to step up to lead the Monday evening group.

Let me know if you have any questions at [beckybhatt@gmail.com](mailto:beckybhatt@gmail.com)

### **Art and Garden**

*by Jacque Schubert*

On Friday, November 5, 2021, we have an 11:30 am docent tour of the "First Peoples of California" Exhibit at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Danville. Cost is \$5/person and we will lunch in Danville after our tour. This exhibit provides a variety of information about the earliest inhabitants in what we now call California.



*Courtesy of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. First contact by Alicia Maria Siu, Antonio Moreno, Vicente Moreno, Vicente Teoxiutleko Moreno*

For thousands of years, these people adapted themselves to California's multitude of climate zones, creating diverse but complex lifestyles, complex social networks and economic systems involving extensive and profitable trading systems. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, 90 languages and dialects were spoken by 350,000 indigenous peoples. In this display, visitors will see Indian home models, cave paintings, maps, hunting nets, arrowheads, a complete acorn processing set up, and

stunning Indian-made baskets. A small, special section, "Two Cultures Collide" will also showcase the arrival of Spanish soldiers and missionaries after 1769. Please contact Jacque Schubert to sign up or for more information.

### **Join a Group!**

Our branch has a wide variety of Interest Groups. Joining an Interest Group gives you the opportunity to have fun and get to know other women in the branch while sharing a common interest. Some Interest Groups are also open to significant others.

The full, most current list of active and inactive Interest Groups is on our branch website at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/about/contact/section/>. There you can find details about what each

group does, who leads it, and when the group meets. Some Interest Groups are quite popular and have a waiting list. Be sure to add your name to a waiting list if you can't join the group now.

Don't see an Interest Group that you'd like? Let us know – there may be other members with a similar interest who would like to get together and form a new group.

### **From the Editor**

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We welcome your contributions to the Advocate. Send any ideas, articles and pictures to Joanne Quijano, "Standing Editor," by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the next month's Advocate. Submissions should be in the following format:

- Articles in a .doc or .docx file, or in the body of an email
- Pictures in .jpg format (compressed)

Contact information for people mentioned in the Advocate is on our branch website and in your directory. If you do not have a directory, contact Claudia Schwarz.

### **From the Corresponding Secretary**

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Pat Gross, our Corresponding Secretary, sends out cards on behalf of our Branch. Let Pat know if you know about any AAUW-DAW member who might appreciate a "Get Well" card, a condolence card after the death of a loved one, or a congratulations card.









### **From the Treasurer: Where to Send Expenses and Deposits**







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If you have expense vouchers or deposits, send them to our AAUW P.O. Box 996 in Alamo, 94507 instead of to our Treasurer's home. We can process your transaction more quickly if your paperwork goes to the P.O. box in case the Treasurer is unavailable.

## Our Wonderful Sponsors

If you know anyone who may be interested in becoming an advertiser, contact me, Marsha Anderson Landau, email: [marsha888@comcast.net](mailto:marsha888@comcast.net), or call (925) 351-8188. I am available to answer any questions and send information to them!

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	<p><i>Everyone Deserves a Bra that Fits</i></p> <p>Veronica Szender</p> <p><a href="https://www.revelationinfit.com/">https://www.revelationinfit.com/</a></p>

\*AAUW DAW members are marked with an asterisk

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls.

**Mission:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

**Value Promise:** By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

**Vision:** AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

The Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branch promotes and supports our AAUW mission through local scholarships, AAUW program support, panel discussions, Tech Trek, AAUW Fund, and topical guest speakers.

Christine Ritter, Acting Editor  
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